Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains, Paris
On 23 April, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Ms Gabriela Ramos, opened and moderated the “High-Level Panel: Measuring Impact and Looking towards the Future” in the context of the 2019 OECD Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains. In her remarks, she noted that the world's consumption of raw materials is set to nearly double by 2060, with the biggest rises in construction materials and metals, particularly in fast-growing developing economies. She highlighted that despite ongoing efficiency improvements, the global environmental impact of using metals will more than double and in some cases quadruple by 2060, which is likely to worsen the pollution of air, water and soils, and contribute significantly to climate change. She also underlined that lack of due diligence in these supply chains can often lead to human rights abuses and financing of – or contribution to – conflicts. As such, she stressed the need to better understand what effects private and public actions have on metal markets, as well as on social and economic development in mining communities.

On 26 April, Ms Ramos participated in the panel “The evolving Global Order in the Next 25 Years” in the context of the 30th Anniversary of the Global School of Policy and Strategy of the University of California-San Diego. In her remarks, she acknowledged that the economic recovery is slowing, that the world economy's centre of gravity is shifting south and east, and that traditional policies, models and approaches have failed to deliver sufficiently for people. In this context, she added that multilateralism has never been so essential in addressing the inherently cross-border challenges of our interconnected world. Yet, paradoxically, multilateralism is increasingly coming under attack. Lastly, she remarked that globalisation and multilateralism are not ends in themselves, and are only worth defending if they improve people's lives and protect our natural environments.

Mission to Yokohama, Japan
On 30 April-1 May, Ms Gabriela Ramos was in Yokohama, Japan, to participate in the Second G20 Sherpa Meeting of the Japan Presidency. Ms Ramos delivered remarks at several Sessions.

On women's employment, she praised the global decline in the gender gap in labour market participation, but stressed that challenges remain in other outcomes including: the gender pay gap, incidence of low-paid work, access to managerial jobs, and female entrepreneurship. As such, she stressed the need to focus on job quality, the gender digital divide, glass ceilings for women and societal issues such as violence against women. On Artificial Intelligence, Ms Ramos highlighted the OECD's work to develop a global multi-stakeholder response on how to achieve transparent and accountable AI systems. She presented the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence, which will be adopted at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on 22-23 May.

On steel capacity, she stated that the global economy is still confronted with significant excess capacity of steel. She stressed the need for the work of the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity to continue to address the root causes of the excess capacity problem and prevent its recurrence in the future.

During her mission, Ms Ramos also held several bilateral meetings with a number of G20 Sherpas.

Mission to California, United States
On 25-26 April, Ms Gabriela Ramos was in California to participate in conferences hosted by the University of California.

On 25 April, Ms Ramos delivered remarks on “We Need New Approaches to Economic Thinking and Acting” at the conference “Economic Transition in the Anthropocene” organised by Partners for a New Economy and hosted by the University of California-Irvine. In her remarks, she highlighted that human activity is having a decisive influence on climate and the environment. She noted that prevailing economic models have led to an abuse of natural resources and have upset the balance of our natural environment. Ms Ramos added that sustainable, inclusive growth requires co-ordination between economic, environmental and social policies. As such, she highlighted that the OECD is focusing on addressing the shortcomings of traditional economic models and developing a systemic perspective on interconnected challenges.

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